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Editorial

CIA Wants to Share Its File

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Director Stansfield Turner gave further evidence of his agency's new and more open look when he told Detroit's Economic Club the other day that the CIA wants to share its intelligence information with the public.

"There is economic and political information that we can collect that would be of value to American businessmen," he said, and added that the CIA is prepared to expand its intelligence activities into non-military areas that might give taxpayers "a better return on their investment."

Later, in Columbus, he said the old modus operandi of keeping CIA work secret "is no longer the policy because the public wants to know. We will be speaking more, answering the media more completely and publishing more."

And in an address at Ohio State University, he said: "We hope the academic community can gain from intelligence. We need the relations with the academic community because the lifeblood of intelligence is the annual infusion of a few good, high-quality persons from the campus."

GRANTED THAT much of what Turner states may be attributed to rhetorical image-building on behalf of his embattled agency. Still, the promise to share intelligence gains with those in this country outside the military and governmental community "who might benefit from it, is constructive and overdue.

No other organization in the United States has the formidable facilities for sheer collection of information that the CIA does with its electronic devices, its high-flying planes, infrared cameras and assorted language and political experts and grey eminences.

TURNER NOTED THAT through the use of satellites there is a good deal of data available about possible oil and energy reserves, crop projections and industrial potential and that the CIA, as a public-funded agency, should share such information on a larger scale.

This kind of talk, we are happy to say doesn't sound like the sinister cloak-and-dagger

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